In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 (Currently amended). A method for soft tissue augmentation wherein said method comprises the injection of cylindrical pellets, wherein said pellets have a hollow conduit running therethrough, wherein said cylindrical pellets are injected in a location where augmentation is desired such that, upon placement of the pellets in the desired location, capillaries or fibrous tissue grow into the hollow conduits thereby preventing migration of the pellets, wherein said pellets are made from an inert physiologically non-reactive material ~~selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, Dacron, silicone, and polyurethane~~; and wherein the pellets are smooth, have an outer diameter of ~~200 μm to 400 μm, an inner diameter of 100 μm to 200 μm~~ 100 μm to 500 μm, an inner diameter of 50 μm to 300 μm, a length of 300 μm to 500 μm, a maximum ratio of inner diameter to outer diameter of 0.9 and are sufficiently uniform in dimension so that the pellets cannot nest one inside another; and wherein said method is used to correct ~~treat gastroesophageal acid reflux, urinary incontinence,~~ velopharyngeal insufficiency~~, or to re-position a vocal cord~~.

2 - 4 (Cancelled).

5 (Previously presented). The method, according to claim 1, wherein said particles are made from polytetrafluoroethylene.

6 – 19 (Cancelled).

20 (New). The method, according to claim 1, wherein the inert physiologically non-reactive material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, Dacron, silicone, and polyurethane.